

SUMMARY MINUTES

ABAG Regional Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 1, 2017
375 Beale Street, Yerba Buena Room, San Francisco, California 94105

1. CALL TO ORDER

Pradeep Gupta, Chair and Vice Mayor, City of South San Francisco, called the meeting of the Regional Planning Committee of the Association of Bay Area Governments to order at 1:13 PM

A quorum of the committee was present.

Committee Members Present

Jurisdiction

Mark Boucher
Monica Brown
Tilly Chang

BAFPAA
Supervisor, County of Solano
Executive Director, SFCTA
County of San Francisco

Cindy Chavez
Julie Combs
Diane Dillon
Pat Eklund
Karen Engel

Supervisor, County of Santa Clara
Councilmember, City of Santa Rosa (Vice Chair)
Supervisor, County of Napa
Councilmember, City of Novato
Director of Economic and Workforce Development,
Peralta Community College

Martin Engelmann

Deputy Executive Director of Planning, Contra
Costa Transportation Agency

Pradeep Gupta
Scott Haggerty
Russell Hancock
John Holtzclaw
Melissa Jones
Michael Lane

Mayor, City of South San Francisco (Chair)
Supervisor, County of Alameda
President & CEO, Joint Venture Silicon Valley
Sierra Club
Executive Director BARHII, Public Health
Policy Director, Non-Profit Housing Association of
Northern California

Nate Miley
Karen Mitchoff
Julie Pierce
David Rabbitt

Supervisor, County of Alameda
Supervisor, County of Contra Costa
Councilmember, City of Clayton (ABAG President)
Supervisor, County of Sonoma (ABAG Vice
President)

Katie Rice
Carlos Romero
Mark Ross
Kirsten Spalding
James P. Spering
Egon Terplan
Monica E. Wilson

Supervisor, County of Marin
Urban Ecology
Councilmember, City of Martinez
Executive Director, SMCUCA
Supervisor, County of Solano
Planning Director, SPUR
Councilmember, City of Antioch

Members Absent

Desley Brooks
Paul Campos

Nancy Ianni
Jeremy Madsen
Carmen Montano
Anu Natarajan
Harry Price
Matt Regan

Al Savay

Gregory Scharff
Jill Techel
Dyan Whyte

Jurisdiction

Councilmember, City of Oakland
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, Building Industry Association
League of Women Voters--Bay Area
Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance
Vice Mayor, City of Milpitas
Director of Policy and Advocacy, MidPen Housing
Mayor, City of Fairfield
Senior Vice President of Public Policy, Bay Area Council
Community & Economic Dev. Director, City of San Carlos (BAPDA)
Mayor, City of Palo Alto
Mayor, City of Napa
Assist. Exc. Officer, San Francisco Regional Waterboard

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. APPROVAL OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2016

Chair Gupta recognized a motion by **John Holtzclaw**, Sierra Club, and seconded by **Pat Eklund**, Councilmember, City of Novato, to approve the Regional Planning Committee (RPC) minutes of December 7, 2016.

There was no discussion.

Yes votes were: Boucher, Brown, Chang, Chavez, Combs, Eklund, Engel, Engelmann, Gupta, Haggerty, Hancock, Holtzclaw, Ianni, Jones, Lane, Miley, Mitchoff, Pierce, Rabbitt, Rice, Romero, Ross, Spalding, Spering, Terplan, Wilson

No votes were: none

Abstain votes were: Dillon

Absent were: Brooks, Campos, Madsen, Montano, Natarajan, Price, Regan, Savay, Scharff, Techel, Whyte

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Gupta introduced new members:

Monica Brown, Supervisor, County of Solano, **Gregory Scharff**, Mayor, City of Palo Alto, **David Canepa**, Supervisor, County of San Mateo.

Member Hancock announced “State of the Valley Conference” on February 17, 2017 in San Jose.

5. SESSION OVERVIEW BY MIRIAM CHION, ABAG PLANNING AND RESEARCH DIRECTOR

Ms. Chion, Director of Planning and Research at ABAG, gave an overview of the meeting and future plans and schedules.

6. REPORT ON GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Information

Mark Shorett, ABAG Senior Regional Planner, and Christy Lefall, ABAG Regional Planner, provided an overview of the Green Infrastructure efforts as part of the PDA Implementation Program. This program supports our environment, local infrastructure and place-making through innovative strategies and local collaboration.

There were public comments by Mike Barada.

Member Miley said tree lined streets are important to the neighborhood, but expressed concern about the need for the trees to be maintained. He suggested there has to be a discussion ahead of time about who will take care of the trees.

Member Eklund said tree maintenance could be a neighborhood effort. She thanked staff for this project, and expressed concern about kids living in large cities who are deprived of green areas and trees.

Member Romero said the public, including children, can be involved in planting trees and creating green areas in collaboration with non-profit organizations to create a sense of ownership for these areas.

Ms. Lefall responded that they are aware that maintenance is an issue, and education to the public is necessary. They are working together with the Air District and also involving the communities.

7. ABAG AND MTC STAFF CONSOLIDATION WORKSHOP

Information

Brad Paul, ABAG Acting Executive Director, provided an overview of the staff consolidation process up to date to frame the small group discussions. The purpose of these discussions is to get substantial input from Regional Planning Committee members to inform the Contract for Services and the Memorandum of Understanding between ABAG and MTC.

Committee members were divided into small groups and asked to discuss the following three questions:

1. What are key ABAG services, programs, or tasks you would like to see enhanced?
2. How do we ensure ABAG is able to carry out its responsibilities as the region's Council of Governments (COG)?
 - a. Staff leadership issues
 - b. Dispute resolution mechanisms
 - c. Financial issues
3. Given what you saw from the General Assembly feedback, what other tasks/priorities should be included to support your cities, towns, and counties in the ABAG-MTC staff consolidation?

The committee members' responses were as follows, organized by table:

Table 1:

- Improving staff relationships with elected officials and other agencies and organizations within the region they serve.
- Staff should regularly meet with elected officials to understand the political challenges they face. Staff should also support new elected officials by providing an introduction to Regional Planning issues. This could build trust, understanding and advance better local and regional solutions.
- Focus on the economic impacts of growth and how it relates to housing affordability and congestion. For example: Research/ "Office of Economic Analysis" that evaluates the cost benefit of policies, projects, programs within the context of the regional economy.
- Recognize that it is healthy to have tension between the regional agencies as well as between the regional level and local jurisdictions.
- Host more research based planning forums that highlight local challenges and offer potential solutions within a regional and sub-regional context (e.g. the implications that rapid economic growth has on housing markets, resilience and infrastructure).

Table 2:

- There is high consensus around the desire to maintain and enrich ABAG's research arm and data collection as well as accessibility to said data. An important subcomponent of that is retaining staff who are familiar with the data and the organization of it. It is not effective to simply hand off data.
- Don't want housing and other infrastructural needs (besides transportation) to take a backlog.
- One concern is how the democratic nature of the COG will fold into the merger; what will it look like? Staff leadership will prove critical in ensuring that staff remains effective, accessible and responsive to cities.

- Merger must enhance regional cohesion, while simultaneously acknowledging and honoring the differences between our cities.
- Infrastructure needs – bringing that forth more fully, there is not a lot of collaboration around that.
- Continuing linkage between transportation, housing and jobs.

Table 3:

- An agency that provides better coordination between land use and transportation, and economic development, tying together affordable housing and infrastructure, that maintains local control while acknowledging regional priorities.
- Protect employees, and retiree benefits.
- Expand mission into new programs, bring business to the table.
- It's better to have contract for service discussions left to ad hoc committee and the boards.
- We need to enhance the engagement between the combined agencies and local planners, public works, transportation departments, Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs), and make it a comprehensive engagement both ways. Having city transportation department, planning department and other departments meet with regional transportation and land use agency at the same time would help everyone get on the same page more efficiently and effectively. Meeting at the same time to be on the same page.

Table 4:

- The merged agency should continue its work on economic prosperity and resilience, which complement the work on housing and transportation and are equally critical to the region's future.
- ABAG has provided a unique forum where everyone engages, and the merged agency must preserve the responsiveness that ABAG staff has shown toward local jurisdiction staff, elected officials, advocates, and other stakeholders. It is particularly important that the small cities that have fewer resources continue to get the attention and assistance they need.
- The merged agency must maintain the focus on equity that has been part of the last two Plan Bay Area processes.
- The merged agency can offer value to local jurisdictions by providing toolboxes of best practices, model ordinances, and data/information that can help them make better decisions and policies. The agency should continue grant programs that support local implementation, like what the ABAG resilience program has offered.

Table 5:

- We need a new creature—not ABAG, not MTC, not ABAG & MTC. There is an opportunity for a regional agency that can address bigger issues, with one board.

The board members can be elected, or selected by local elected officials, and bring representation of region. The separate entities in the context of this merger is false because the resources sit with MTC, and therefore inequity is built in. It is more like a takeover than a merger.

- There must be democratic and equitable representation on the decision making body of the new entity. In particular the smaller cities and counties need a seat at the table. MTC does not represent cities and does not go to cities.
- The lead planner for the combined agencies needs a history experience in working on equity, and working with advocates on the ground.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Combs adjourned the Regional Planning Committee at 2:55 PM

The next meeting of the Regional Planning Committee will be on April 5, 2017.

Submitted:

Wally Charles

Date: February 17, 2017

For information or to review audio recordings of ABAG Regional Planning Committee meetings, contact Wally Charles at 415.820.7993 or info@abag.ca.gov.